As I neared the end of writing this book, my son Callum marveled that such a slim volume could take me so long to finish. I share his incredulity. His comment brought to mind the proverb that it takes a whole village to raise a child. How many people per page, I have to ask, did it take to produce this book?

I have been supported by many good friends during my several years of work on this project. In particular, Jane Burns, Linda Cullum, Pauline Greenhill, Ann Marie Powers, and Mary Ellen Wright offered advice when asked and encouragement when needed. I owe a special thanks to Barbara Rieti, who by now must want never to hear another word about recipes or baking.

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experiences when I once again steered casual conversation to the subject of food.

I presented parts of this work at meetings of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, the American Folklore Society, the American Anthropological Association, and the First International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. On each occasion I benefited from the comments of audience members and was bolstered by their enthusiasm.

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Extended family members and friends kindly consented to be interviewed: Fred Falconer, Geraldine Falconer, Helen Farrow, Annie Goodyear, Anne Green, Sadie Latimer, Peg Miller, and Helen Ward. Their memories are integral to this work.

Families often help shoulder the burden of a writing project. My family not only supported me in the many usual ways, but also allowed me to make their lives my text. Through the preparation of this book I have developed a fuller appreciation of my mother’s life and work as well as the many ways in which my father continues to nurture each family member. The trust and unconditional acceptance that he, along with my brother Mark and sister Cathy, showed at every stage of this project is humbling.

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